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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/718,761 11/22/00 ROETENBERG

P MDHB00-1238

020306 PM82/1109
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EXAMINER

RAMIREZ, R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED:

11/09/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/718,761

Applicant(s)

ROETENBERG, PAULUS
GERARDUS

Examiner

RAMON O. RAMIREZ

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

This is the Office Action corresponding to original filing.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Netherlands on Nov 22, 1999. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Drawings

The drawings are accepted by the examiner, subject to Draftsman approval.

Specification

A substitute specification is required. The instant one is of bad quality, hard to read (blurred) and with insufficient top margin.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-10 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple claim, and must refer to other claims in the alternative only. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 6-10 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neil (5,960,967) in view of Kohout (1,132,190).

The reference to Neil shows a device comprising a rail like member having a slot (12) and a hook (16) with an anchor member (15). It is not very clear if the member is telescopic. However, the reference to Kohout shows a device having a telescopic rail like member for adjusting the length of the member. It would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the device shown by Neil with telescopic members as shown by Kohout to adjust the length of the device and make it more versatile and easy to storage. To use a ball as the anchor means, as well as the material from which said anchor means is made, are considered as obvious matter of engineering choice having no patentable significance.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Moore (1,37,047), Walp et al. 91388,132), Benedict et al. (4,771,899) and Upchurch et al. show other devices of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner **Ramírez** at telephone number (703) 308-0748. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

The fax numbers for this Group are (703) 305-7687 (for formal papers), and (703) 308-3519 (for informal papers).

Any inquiry of general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

A shortened period for response to this Office Action expires **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action.

R.O. RAMIREZ
November 7, 2001



RAMON O. RAMIREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600
ART UNIT 3632